COMPLETE LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following lists all of the claims that are or were in the above-identified patent application. The status identifiers respectively provided in parentheses following the claim numbers indicate the current statuses of the claims.

Claims 1-34 (Canceled)

35. (Currently Amended) A computing platform comprising:

a secure key-handling unit arranged to store a storage root key that forms the root node of a tree-structured node hierarchy the non-leaf nodes of which, other than the root node, each comprise, in encrypted form, a key used to encrypt the or each of its child nodes, and

insecure storage for storing the hierarchy nodes other than the root node;

the key-handling unit comprising:

a memory for storing the storage root key and a current decryption-root key;

a decrypted-access arrangement arranged to restrict decrypted access to the hierarchy nodes to those nodes decryptable by a chain of decryption rooted in said current decryption-root key, wherein the decrypted-access arrangement is operable in a mode where the current decryption-root key corresponds to a node of said hierarchy other than the root node and one or more nodes higher up in said hierarchy than is the node corresponding to the current decryption-root key are not available; and

a current-decryption-root setting arrangement for storing in said memory, ~~in decrypted form,~~ the key of a selected non-leaf node of said hierarchy to serve as said current decryption-root key, the current-decryption-root setting arrangement enabling the selected non-leaf node to be changed.

36. (Previously Presented) A computing platform according to claim 35, wherein the setting arrangement is arranged to permit the selected non-leaf node, and thereby the decryption-root key, to be changed only upon a predetermined set of at least one condition being met.

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37. (Previously Presented) A computing platform according to claim 36, wherein at least one predetermined condition comprises the receipt by the key handling unit of an authorization value indicative of particular digital data.

38. (Previously Presented) A computing platform according to claim 37, wherein said authorization value is a digest of a protected process associated with the node that is intended to be the new selected non-leaf node.

39. (Previously Presented) A computing platform according to claim 36, wherein at least one predetermined condition comprises that a protected process associated with the node that is intended to be the new selected non-leaf node is about to be run by the computing platform.

40. (Previously Presented) A computing platform according to claim 39, wherein at least one predetermined condition comprises that any other currently-activated processes running on the computing platform are benign.

41. (Currently Amended) A computing platform according to claim 36, wherein at least one predetermined condition comprises that the key-handling ~~apparatus~~ unit is requested to change the selected non-leaf node by a root of trust of the computing platform.

42. (Previously Presented) A computing platform according to claim 35, wherein upon start up of the computing platform, the node at the head of the hierarchy, forms said selected non-leaf node.

43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously Presented) A computing platform according to claim 35, wherein the key-handling unit is arranged always to hold securely the node at the head of the hierarchy, in unencrypted form.

45. (Canceled)

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46. (Previously Presented) A computing platform according to claim 35, wherein the key-handling unit is arranged to indicate the selected non-leaf node by signing a value associated with the node using an identity key associated with the key-handling unit.

47. (Previously Presented) A computing platform according to claim 35, wherein the key-handling unit is so arranged that only a particular type of non-leaf node, herein a dynamic key node, can be used as the selected non-leaf node in addition to the node at the head of the hierarchy.

48. (Previously Presented) A computing platform according to claim 47, wherein the key-handling unit is arranged, upon receipt of a corresponding command, to generate a dynamic key node as a node of said hierarchy.

49. (Previously Presented) A computing platform according to claim 35, wherein the setting arrangement is arranged to permit the selected non-leaf node to be changed to one associated with a protected process upon receipt by the key-handling unit of a reliable indication that a mechanism expected to resist subversion will attempt to enforce appropriate access restrictions on that node and any descendent nodes, the key of the non-leaf node associated with said protected process being available for use in relation to the protected process upon becoming the decryption root key.

50. (New) A computing platform according to claim 35, wherein the key-handling unit comprises a Trusted Platform Module.

51. (New) A computing platform according to claim 35, wherein the current-decryption-root setting arrangement operates to decrypt content of the selected non-leaf node of said hierarchy to determine the current decryption-root key.

52. (New) A computing platform according to claim 35, wherein the current-decryption-root setting arrangement stores in said memory, in decrypted form, the key of the selected non-leaf node of said hierarchy to serve as said current decryption-root key.

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